# LAMBDA VALLEY

June 1987

## MONTHLY

volume XVIII (18) Number 10

# The American Run For the End of AIDS Homophobia in the Slow Lane

by BILL KONKOY, director

The American Run for the end of AIDS has now logged more than 5,500 miles through 22 states and innumerable cities, towns, villages, hamlets and wide spots on the road. Since we cover about 20 miles each day, spending at least three hours travelling at 7 mph in car covered with signs and flashing lights bumping along the shoulder of high speed thoroughfares preceded by a slightly balding, very sweaty runner, we've had ample opportunity to be noticed, commented on, and communicated with.

Most of the communication — from cars passing or standing, from pedestrians, stoopsitters and window-hangers, from game-players and viewers, shoppers and shop-keepers — has been overwhelmingly positive. It has ranged from thumbs up, waves and raised victory fists, to shouts of 'Right on!' 'Keep going,' and 'We love you!'

Then there is the other kind. The kind that raises the hair on your neck, brings the red haze to shroud your darting vision. At its most violently non-verbal, it has ranged from the careful aim at Brent, our runner, taken by a speeding semi (could we have strayed into his path?) to the display of shotguns from a yellow half-ton Ford pick-up (some good ol' boys scarin' the fags). By now we have discounted that most pedestrian of insults, the raised finger.

But it's the verbal brickbats that are the most interesting, and the scariest. Some come out of confusion, like the South-side Chicago softball team which cheered until they could read the car signs. Their altered tune, along the line of 'Eat shit and die,' was not music to our ears. Marion's personal favorite, 'Hey, lady, you got the AIDS?' provoked her to first chuckle, then, get angry. It's the ignorance that gets to you.

Being out front, pounding the pavement, Brent is the usual target. He decided long ago not to expend valuable energy responding to taunts. So he ignores thumbs—down and raised fingers. But he admits to a pulse—pounding response to "Hope you die, faggot." Brent has lost more than thirty friends to AIDS.

The one response that lives in memory for its intensity of rage, depth of frustration and sheer volume came from the humpy 30-ish Boston hard-hat. His face enpurpled and grimacing, he wailed a long dawn out "Cocksucker!" that must have set the dogs in three counties into a frenzy. Like them, his bark was worse than his bite.

The American Run for the End of AIDS consists of dedicated people running coast to coast to bring awareness to the American people for more government funding to fight AIDS. Above was the third in a continuing series of twice monthly letters from the road. For more info write to

A.R.E.A. 2350 Broadway New York, NY 10024 -Editor

## Lehigh Valley Take Pride

#### by BOB SWEENEY

June 28 to July 12 marks the Lehigh Valley Gay Pride week, actually two weeks. Sunday, June 28 kicks off with the New York Gay Pride Parade. The Lambda Center, your gay community center will be hosting events under the pride theme. Wednesday, July 1, the center in association with Le-Hi-Ho will be hosting a Pride Party, featuring gay memorabilia from the valley. So stop in, and be proud!

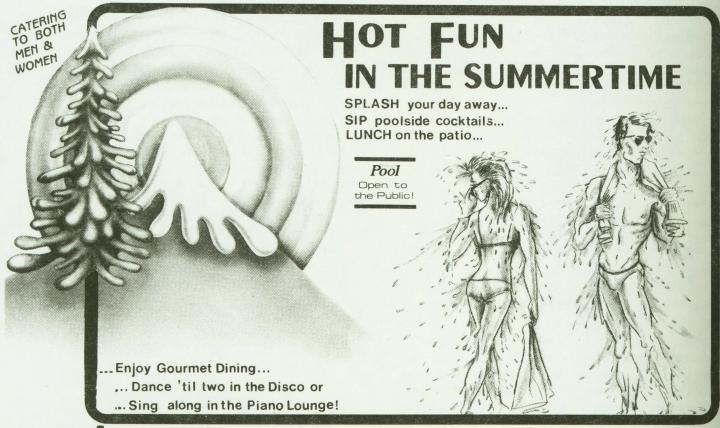
The Allentown Human Relations Committee has proclaimed June 1 to 15 AIDS Awareness, with the push concentrated on AIDS education. The committee has gone to local businesses to make

AIDS education among employees a top priority. They will also be soliciting area theaters to show 'The AIDS Movie.'

Miss Elizabeth Taylor has been invited to the valley by the Lehigh Valley AIDS services Center for pride week. Miss Taylor has been very supportive during the AIDS crisis as chairperson of AMFAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research). Miss Taylor will be in Washington, D.C. during this time and, schedule permitting, possibly Philadelphia and the Lehigh Valley!

So, come on, Lehigh Valley, take Pride!!

2



rainbow mountain

717-223-8484

#### by DESIREE

Those women are at it again.

Having fun, that is. Lesbians Unlimited of the Lehigh Valley (LULV), having recognized that the women of the valley can not live by picnics alone, have been sponsoring informal gatherings for fun and friendship (actually, I go for the frolicking myself). A dance (great tunes), the Annual Ladies Only Picnic (a memorable event) and potlucks (28 women running in and out!) so far...

About every other week, women (and some ladies) join their impressive forces to socialize, chortle, network, support, exchange titles of the newest Katherine Forest books, ignore the worst puns ever heard, gossip and have an occasional serious conversation. The emphasis is on inexpensive, entertaining social alternatives for lesbians, sometimes known as cheap thrills!

Due to financial constraints, a regular newsletter of LULV is difficult to publish. But a solution is here: the telephone. Not only is it cheaper and faster, it permits spontaneity. To be Leybiany

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included on the phone list, give Judy or Connie a call at (215) 791-1417. Discretion is assured for return calls. For those not able to receive calls at home, information can be received through the mail. Now there is no excuse to miss out on the fun. Mail can be directed to LULV at P.O. Box 665, Trexlertown, PA 18087.

Upcoming events of interest include: June 28 Gay Pride Parade in New York

June 27–28 Fifth Annual Sisterfire Weekend in Washington, D.C. Open-air festival for women, camping available onsite. Contact: Roadwork, Dept. SF, 1475 Harvard St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009 (202) 483–1010.

July 25 Lambda Alive Picnic, Reading; car pooling info: 791-1417.

August 2 Lambda Center Picnic at Kuhn's Grove. Call 437-7377 for info.

October 11 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay rights; info available from P.O. Box 7781, Washington, D.C. 20044. (202) 783–1828.



Monday-Saturday 3PM - 2 AM

> Sunday, Aug. 16, 1-8PM Second Annual Picnic Chicken and Steak



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#### Viewpoint

## Time Out with Tyro

by JONATHON S. GRABER

As a relative newcomer to the Valley's gay community, please allow me to discuss the general character of (male) homosexuality as I have so far experienced it, as well as what measures can be taken to help our plight. I'm sure my female readers will understand my emphasis (for obvious reasons) on the male homosexual experience. Also, pardon my use of certain cliches to complement my thoughts.

I attended public school and college in Allentown. During those years, I chose not to see the gay element of Lehigh Valley society, thus subconsciously denying my homosexuality. Several months ago I razed my straight facade and fully 'came out.' Imagine my exhilaration when I discovered the great presence of our subculture! I have been enriched by people who have offered me much insight, support, and encouragement.

Unfortunately, the benevolence I have encountered is paralleled by bitterness, cynicism, and hedonism. Popular culture tends to idealize the phenomenon of 'coming out.' (Of course, the focus here is often on the erotic aspect of homosexual love; the overriding emotional component is less often addressed.) In fact, the abrupt changes that occur after openly declaring one's sexual identity are complex and traumatic. The emotions I experienced during this period cover the gamut from heady excitement to ambivalence to intense guilt. These emotions, coupled with the wide range of social beings and

moralities I encountered, made for a truly radicalizing experience.

When one accepts his or her homosexuality and finds a comfortable group of peers, one must at times play the heterosexual 'game' in order to avoid hostility. This surrender to the straight world, intentional or not, is a form of oppression we all share. We are far from liberated. The liberation of a minority group requires some degree of unity and consistency of thought among its constituents. Yet gays lack the ethnic, religious, etc., bonds of other minority groups. How is unity and consistency of thought achieved? One possibility is to act out the familiar adage 'Love thy neighbor.' How can we improve our oppressed condition without helping one another? (Ironically, in this respect the AIDS epidemic has been a force in our favor.) A more global approach is to function as homosexuals in society at large without parading, though certainly suppressing, our sexual identities. I don't deny the potential risks this involves in terms of our private familial, social, professional, and political arenas. However, the sooner every one of us does what his or her degree of 'out of-the-closet-ness' allows, whether this be political activism. maintaining social outlets, helping a friend in turmoil, or simply staying informed on social and political issues, the sooner heterosexuals see us as the thoughtful, capable people we are.

continued on page 6

#### Dear Brianna...

#### by BRIANNA

Who loves ya, baby?

"I don't Understand why men would want to dress as women. Drag queens offend me and most of my friends. Why don't they stay in their homes instead of making spectacles of themselves in public?"

Signed,
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Men dressing as women, or as you might refer to them, Drag Queens, has been documented throughout history over hundreds of years. Transvestism, as defined by Webster's dictionary, means simply: "the adoption os dress and often the behavior of the opposite sex." It does not imply one's sexual preference. As far as making spectacles of themselves, some may read your letter and think the same of you.

However, your lack of information and understanding on 'cross-dressing' is shared by many individuals. Being interested in the lifestyles of these individuals, Brianna is interviewing six different cross-dressers over the next few months. Hopefully, shraing these interviews will help to bring more people to understand why acceptance, not only for lesbians and gays, is important for everyone.

Remember, we are everywhere!

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#### VIEWPOINT

continued from page 4

In order to have our voice heard and generate influence, we must get our heads out of the sand. This can partly be achieved by acting as individuals, not automata, by living our lives as we please. The uneasiness caused by the disparaging words or actions of homophobes pales in comparison to the enjoyment and sense of purpose gained from doing what one wants in the company of whomevery one wants. Only once such a

philosophy is adopted and enacted can we garner the respect we deserve.

I hope this discussion has proved valuable and will not be dismissed as idealistic drivel. I fervently believe our gay community has the potential strength, character, and commitment of that of much larger populations. Let's work for our betterment and therefore a healthier society at large.

### Letters to the Editor

If you have any legitimate gripes about Lambda Valley Monthly, regarding articles or representation, Lambda Center, the bars or anything affecting the gay community, write a letter to the editor of Lambda Valley Monthly. If you want to get involved and don't know how or where, write a letter!

All letters should be addressed to:

Lambda Valley Monthly

Box 1633

Allentown, PA 18105

#### LAMBDA VALLEY MONTHLY

Box 1633

Allentown, PA 18105

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Typesetting: Naj Najarian

Circulation/Distribution: Jay Keenan, Paul Kendall

Advertising: Ben Dunlap

Lambda Valley Monthly is published monthly by Le-Hi-Ho and is distributed by mail and controlled public distribution. It assumes no liability for errors beyond the printing of a retraction or correction.

Opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Le-Hi-Ho. Inclusion of the name of any person or organization should not be taken as an indicaton of sexual orientation. Le-Hi-Ho assumes no reponsibility for the quality of the goods and services provided by its advertisers or those listed in the resource section.

#### Lambda Center Notes

#### by BOB SWEENEY

Hello. Your Lambda Center Board of Directors has been busy with their little calendars and pens to insure an exciting and eventful summer. Activities being planned include:

June 7 Fundraising dinner at the Willows Restaurant, East Texas. Tickets are \$20. Family style dinner begins promptly at 5:30. Call the Center at 433-7377 for info.

June 28 New York City Gay Pride Parade; Bus arrangements are being made through the courtesy of the 13th Street Pub, Easton. Call the Pub at 252-9213 for more info.

July 1 Pride Party at the Center, 742 hamilton Mall. The theme is local gay memorabilia of the Lehigh Valley, and how far we've come locally. The fun starts at 7:30 pm.

August 2 Lambda Center picnic at Kuhn's Grove, Kuhnsville. Tickets are \$12.50 for member and \$15 for friends. If you purchase your tickets in advance, the cost is \$12.50 for anyone, member or friend of the center. Highlights include food all day, beverages, and live entertainment, fun, and more!

Your Board of Directors has also been making the preparations for the march on Washington on October 11 for lesbian and gay rights. Be sure to attend. Other fall events include the Annual Lambda Center Birthday Bash in September, featuring dining and dancing as well as the annual awards to involved members of our community. So be sure to come on out and wish your Community CEnter a happy happy.

The Board has welcomed Mr. Shawn Zahn as Office Coordinator. Shawn will be seeing to the day to day operation of the center. This will also enable the center to be open everyday except Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm.

The Board has finally decided on a centralized area for the new building to house the Center. Negotiations are underway for a new building. Details as they develop.

The Center has been undergoing restructuring of it committees. The following standing committees are in need of volunteers Finance, Volunteer Development, Building and Center Development, Fundraising and Membership, Communications and P/R, Services and Program Development, AIDS Services Center and Hotline. Any member interested in joining any of these committees give Shawn a call at the center at 433-7377.

Until next time, keep safe and have a great summer!!

### Tomorrow

#### by GREG NEW HOLLAND

Today's the day
the clouds will flow
Today's the day
the moon won't glow
Today's the day
I'll frown and cry
Today's the day
I said goodbye
Tomorrow's the day
the sun will shone

Tomorrow's the day
the moon will be mine
Tomorrow's the day
I'll laugh and sing
Tomorrow's the day
I'll enjoy everything
Tomorrow's the day
filled with no more pain
Tomorrow's the day
we'll meet again.

### LAMBDA VALLEY MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES (Circulation: 1,000)

AD SIZE	DIMENTIONS	SINGLE PRICE	4 FOR PRICE OF 3
Business card	$3\frac{1}{2}$ "x2" 3 3/4"x5" 8"x5" or 3 3/4"x10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " 8"x10 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	\$14	\$42 (\$10.50 each)
Quarter page		\$25	\$75 (\$18.75 each)
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Full page		\$70	\$210 (\$52.50 each)

Advertising Reservations Close the 15th of the Preceding Month. Camera-Ready Materials Due the 20th of Preceding Month.

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# SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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# Lehigh Valley Lesbian & UPDATE Gay Community Center

10 June 1987

Greetings,

"Take Pride '87", which is being celebrated locally 28 June to 12 July 1987, is upon us. The time of the year that is set aside as ours- a celebration of community. Included is a tentative schedule of events that are to take place. As the time gets closer there are going to be more events. Check with the HOTLINE for the most up to date information. Note that the Official PROCLAIMATION OF TAKE PRIDE '87 will be on 1 July at the Lambda Center's Pride Party. Tickets for the party can be obtained from any LVLGCC Board member or at the Lambda Center office from Shawn.

Along with June's copy of Le-Hi-Ho's publication of Lambda Valley Monthly is a brochure from the Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Those of you who attended the Networking meeting the Lambda Center hosted in April will remember meeting Marge Bowen. Ms. Bowen outlined an aggressive agenda that she and her group has set for themselves. Among her presentation was the viewing of the new Public Service Announcements (PSA's) that they have developed. Phila. has access to the three network affiliated TV stations (Chs. 3,6,10) that service the Lehigh Valley as well. This is a project that will benefit us all and to which we support their effort. For further information contact Marge Bowen at The Task Force.

Our thanks go to Brian and the staff of the Willow's Restaurant in East Texas, PA for a great evening fundraiser last Sunday. Plans are already afoot to do it again in the Fall. The food was excellent. It's been a long time since I've seen so many calories in one room.

We still would like you to confirm your address for us. If you did it already your taken care of and don't have to do it again, but if you haven't returned your mailing label either corrected or confirming that it is correct please do so. In this way we can keep our mailing list as updated as possible.

Lastly, PICNIC TICKETS GO ON SALE JULY 1st AT THE PRIDE PARTY. STILL ONLY \$15.00 AND MEMBER DISCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE. THE PICNIC IS AUGUST 2nd AT KUHNS GROVE.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Lehigh Valley Lesbian and Gay Community Center and its projects and services. Take pride folks- TAKE PRIDE '87.

Ed Verba, LVLGCC Board President

Sunday, June 28th

Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade in New York This annual event and the Christopher Street Festival has attracted hundreds of thousands since its inception in 1970. Come and join us and follow the now famous lavendar line down 5th Ave. . A bus to the event is being organized by the 13th St. Pub in Eastn. Details and reservations can be made by calling 252-9213.

Wednesday, July 1st 5:30 pm WMUH's Community Forum Show

Members of the Lambda Center Board will be the guests on this half hour talk/ interview show. The live interview will deal with the Proclaimation of Gay and Lesbian Pride Weeks.

Wednesday, July 1st 7:30 pm

Lehigh Valley Pride Party

Brining the Pride home to the Lehigh Valley will start with the Pride Pacty. The evening will feature a display of Gay/ Lesbian History sponsored by Le-Hi-Ho. Entertainment for the event will be highlighted by the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley's choir. The evening will peak with the official Proclaimation of Gay and Lesbian Pride Weeks in the L.V. and the kick-off of our Voter Registration campaign. The Proclaimation will be endorsed by the L.V.'s Lesbian and Gay Community Center, Le-Hi-Ho, and MCC. During of all of this "program" we will be celebrating the Pride of the Gay/Lesbian Community with a champagne party. Come and celebrate the Pride. Cost: \$5.00. To be held at the Lambda Center, 742 Hamilton Mall.

8:00 pm Thursday, July 2nd

The Times of Harvey Milk

A special video presentation of the award winning documentary about the slain San Fransisco commissioner. A discussion of political and civil liberties will follow. Refreshments will be served. The presentation is open to the public and will be held at the Lambda Center. Cost:\$2.00.

Sunday, July 5th 7:30 pm A Celebration of Lesbian and Gay Pride

A special service of the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley. Services of MCC are held at the Lambda Center. The service will excite and challenge our community. Parish coordinator is Irene Kratz. For details call MCC at 861-7646.

Sunday, July 5th

Easton's Heritage Day

Join the Lambda Center and the AIDS Services Center as we participate in the Annual Heritage Day in EASTON's Downtown area. The event is sponsored by the Two Rivers Area Chambers of Commerce (TRACC). Show your support of this public effort by coming to see us there. To volunteer to help staff the booth contact the Lambda Center at 433-7377 or ASC at 433-5444. Copies of the Proclaimation of Gay and Lesbian Pride will be available at this event

Saturday, July 11th Noon-4:00 pm Safer Sex Workshop for Gay Men

A nationally used workshop to keep us "Hot, Horny & Healthy". This four hour workshop will answer these 3 H's and how to balance them. The workshop is sponsored by the Lehigh Valley AIDS Services Center. There is a \$2.00 charge to cover matereials. There is a limited to the number that may participate so advance registration is necessary. Call Shawn at the Lambda Center office at 433-7377.

Sunday, July 12 2:00-4:00 pm.

A Womyn's Gathering

An afternoon of fun and support for the Womyn's Community. Specifically planned by and for the Lesbian community and friends. A goal of the day will be to set the pace for the future of events like this one. So... let's "party down" on this July afternoon and culminate the Pride weeks with celebration The event is at the Lambda Center and free.

Other community events are being planned Every effort to get the word out will be made. If you would like to keep updated call the Gay/Lesbian and AIDS Hotline at 433-5444. The line is open 24 hrs a day.

#### LEHIGH VALLEY LESEIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

MONDAY, JUNE 15
Downtown AA- 12pm
Womyn's Night- 7:30pm

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THURSDAY, JUNE 18
Le-Hi-Ho Lecture/Meeting- 7:30pm

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 Your Turf (25 & under) - 7pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 Your Turf Tubing- 10am-6pm

SUNDAY, JUNE 21
Metropolitan Community Church
Sunday Worship Service- 7:30pm

MONDAY, JUNE 22 Downtown AA- 12pm

THURSDAY, JUNE 25
MCC Living Room Discussion- 7:30pm

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 Your Turf- 7pm

SUNDAY, JUNE 28 New York Gay Pride Parade

MONDAY, JUNE 29 Downtown AA- 12pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 Fride Farty- 7:30pm

THURSDAY, JULY 2 Video: Life and times of Harvey Milk-8pm

FRIDAY, JULY 3 Your Turf- 7pm

SATURDAY, JULY 4
Your Turi Adventure Trip

SUNDAY, JULY 5 MCC Pride Celebration- 7:30pm Easton Heritage Day- 12pm-6pm MONDAY, JULY 6
Downtown AA- 12pm
Lambda Valley Monthly Staff
Meeting- 7pm
Womyn's Night- 7:30pm

FRIDAY, JULY 10 Your Turf- 7pm

SATURDAY, JULY 11
Gay Men's Workshop- "Safe Sex"12pm-4pm

SUNDAY, JULY 12 MCC- 7:30pm Womyn's Gathering- 2pm-4pm

MONDAY, JULY 13 Downtown AA- 12pm

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Board of Directors- 7:30pm

THURSDAY, JULY 16
Le-Hi-Ho Lecture/Meeting- 7:30pm

FRIDAY, JULY 17 Your Turf- 7pm

SUNDAY, JULY 19 MCC- 7:30pm

MONDAY, JULY 20 Lowntown AA- 12pm

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
ASC Bereavement Group- 7:30pm

THURSDAY, JULY 23
MCC Living Room Discussion- 7:30pm

FRIDAY, JULY 24 Your Turf- 7pm

SUNDAY, JULY 26 MCC- 7:30pm

\*\*\*MARCH ON WASHINGTON OCTOPER 11

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>GAY FRIDE CELEBRATION JUNE 28-JULY 12

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>LAMBDA CELTER FIGNIC SUNDAY AUGUST 2

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>FOR MORE PROGRAM INFORMATION ON TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED JALL THE CENTER AT 433-7377